

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-27 are pending.

Claims 1-27 stand rejected.

No claims have been amended.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Rejection of Claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,847,778 (Vallone, et al.)

Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 6,847,778 (Vallone, et al.).

The rejection of claim 1 is respectfully traversed on the grounds that Vallone fails to disclose or suggest each limitation of claim 1.

Claim 1 reads as follows:

1. A video playback apparatus having means to invoke either replay or reverse modes upon receipt of a replay-reverse multipurpose remote control signal, depending on the duration of the replay-reverse multipurpose remote control signal, and means to invoke either skip or forward functions upon receipt of a skip-forward multipurpose remote control signal, depending on the duration of the skip forward multipurpose remote control signal.

For example, Vallone fails to disclose or suggest at least the limitations: (1) means to invoke either replay or reverse commands upon receipt of a replay-reverse multipurpose remote control signal depending on the duration of the replay-reverse multipurpose remote control signal; and (2) means to invoke either skip or forward functions upon receipt of a skip-forward multipurpose remote control signal, depending on the duration of the skip-forward multipurpose remote control signal.

As to limitation (1), Vallone does not disclose a “replay-reverse multipurpose remote control signal” as recited in claim 1. Rather, Vallone discloses a remote control 1401 (shown in Fig. 14) which has a distinct rewind button 1407 and a distinct instant replay button 1415 (col. 19, lines 23-32). One of ordinary skill reading Vallone will understand that remote control 1401 provides a rewind, or reverse, signal if the user presses rewind button 1407, and an instant replay signal if the user presses instant replay button 1415. Thus, the remote control 1401 of Vallone does not emit a “replay-reverse multipurpose remote control signal”, but distinct signals for the distinct functions of replaying and reverse. As Vallone fails to disclose a “replay-reverse multipurpose remote control signal,” Vallone necessarily fails to disclose the claimed “means to invoke either replay or reverse commands upon receipt of a replay-reverse multipurpose remote control signal depending on the duration of the replay-reverse multipurpose remote control signal.”

Furthermore, Vallone does not disclose a “skip-forward multipurpose remote control signal” as recited in claim 1. Remote control 1401 of Vallone has a distinct jump button 1407 and a distinct fast forward button 1408 (col. 19, lines 23-27). Thus, one of ordinary skill reading Vallone will understand that remote control 1401 provides a jump, or skip, signal, if the user presses jump button 1414, and a fast forward signal if the user presses fast forward button 1408. Thus, the remote control 1401 of Vallone does not emit a “skip-forward multipurpose remote control signal”, but distinct signals for the distinct functions of skipping and fast forwarding. As Vallone fails to disclose a “skip-forward multipurpose remote control signal,” Vallone necessarily fails to disclose the claimed “means to invoke either skip or forward commands upon receipt of a skip-

forward multipurpose remote control signal depending on the duration of the skip-forward multipurpose remote control signal.”

Moreover, there is no reference in Vallone to performing different functions depending on the *duration* of a signal from the remote. There is a reference to selecting a 1x, 2x or 3x fast forward mode depending on the *number* of presses of the fast forward button 1408, and to selecting a 1x, 2x or 3x reverse mode depending on the *number* of presses of the reverse button button 1407. (col. 20, lines 37-43). However, this permits adjustment of the operation of a *single* function based on a *number* of presses of a button, in contrast to claim 1, which recites performing *different* functions based on the *duration* of a signal.

The office action cites col. 10, lines 4-19 as teaching the limitations of claim 1. However, the cited portion of Vallone merely states that when the fast forward key is pressed, the control object 917 sends an event to the transform 902 that tells it to move forward two seconds. There is no teaching, or even a hint, that the response of the system of Vallone to the fast forward key may be either fast forward or skip. The cited portion of Vallone states that the same method works for fast reverse. Again, there is no hint that the response of the system of Vallone to the fast reverse key may be either reverse or replay.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record.

As to claim 2, Vallone fails to teach, for example, a “first replay-reverse predetermined threshold” or a “first skip-forward predetermined threshold.” The office action states, for example on page 3, that “duration can change by user.” The duration

that can be user selected is not a duration of a skip-forward predetermined threshold or a replay-reverse predetermined threshold. For example, Vallone does state: "While the instant replay button 1415 causes the slider 2605 to reposition ten seconds (the time span is system adjustable) backwards into the cache bar 2602, thereby allowing the user to view a portion of the program in the same manner as an instant replay operates in football broadcasts." However, the adjustable time span is that of the duration of the instant replay, and has nothing whatever to do with thresholds separating skip commands from forward commands, or thresholds separating replay commands from reverse commands.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 2 is allowable over the prior art of record. Claim 2 is also allowable by virtue of its dependence on an allowable base claim.

Claims 3-19 are allowable at least by virtue of their ultimate dependence on an allowable base claim.

Claim 20 incorporates the limitations of claim 1, and is allowable at least for the reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 21 is an independent method claim having limitations similar to the limitations of claim 1, and is allowable at least for the reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 22 is an independent claim having the limitation of inter alia, "a microprocessor for varying the playback speed according to duration of the external speed control signal." As explained above, Vallone nowhere discloses varying playback speed according to *duration* of an external speed control signal. By contrast, Vallone

discloses varying playback speed depending on the *number* of repetitions of a signal from a remote control (col. 20, lines 41-43).

For at least these reasons, claim 22 is allowable.

Claims 23 and 24 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable claim 22.

Claim 25 depends from claim 22, and further recites "a signal generated by holding down a key for a skip-forward function." As explained above in connection with claim 1, Vallone does not disclose a key that provides both a skip and a forward function. For at least this reason, in addition to its dependence from allowable claim 22, claim 25 is allowable.

Claim 26 depends from claim 22 and is allowable at least by virtue of its dependence from allowable 22.

Claim 27 depends from claim 22, and further recites "a signal generated by holding down a key for a replay-reverse function." As explained above in connection with claim 1, Vallone does not disclose a key that provides both a replay and a reverse function. For at least this reason, in addition to its dependence from allowable claim 22, claim 27 is allowable.

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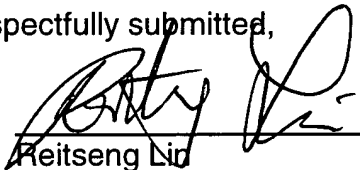
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Conclusion

Having fully addressed the Examiner's objections and rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6813, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,


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